

Relocated Road Prevents Washouts, Promotes Safety

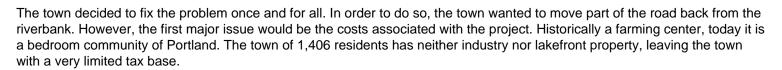
Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Oxford County, Maine

Oxford County, ME - One of Maine's most pristine rivers, the Saco River, runs through the bucolic region of southwestern Maine. Bisected by the Saco River is the small Maine village of Hiram. Here, alongside the Saco runs River Road and its long history of flooding.

The town had received Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds in the past to help prevent future flood damages to the road. But the section of the road that had been mitigated lies at a sharp bend in the river, and the scour effect on the river bank

had placed the entire road in jeopardy. The chronic problem of road washouts had a negative effect on neighbors, schools, businesses, municipal, and utility services; it divided the town into two, causing a major inconvenience and potential safety hazard.



The second issue was that the location that the town hoped to move the road to was private property. Fortunately, the property owner was civic minded and donated an easement to the town at no cost. This opened the door for the town to apply for another grant through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The town applied for an HMGP grant through a flooding disaster (DR-1371-ME) declared on May 16, 2001. In April 2002, the town was awarded a grant to fund the moving of the road and the stabilization of the river bank. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to states, Indian tribes, and local governments for long-term hazard mitigation projects following a major disaster declaration. Under this program FEMA pays up to 75 percent of the project cost. Either the state or the applicant covers the remaining 25 percent.

The project consisted of moving 1,825 feet of road approximately 20 feet west of the river. This improvement altered the angle of the slope to a 2:1 ratio and protected the slope with rip-rap and native vegetation. An added benefit was that the town also was able to remove a sharp curve and a knoll and fill a dip in the road.

The total cost of the project was \$538,000 of which the town paid the total local share of \$134,000. The direct cost benefit to the town is \$755,610 in mitigated financial loss.

As of February 2009, the project is 100 percent complete, and Hiram town officials report that River Road has had no more flooding problems.

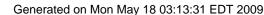
Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: Single County in a State

FEMA Region: Region I

State: Maine

County: Oxford County



Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: Public

Hazard Type: Flooding

Activity/Project Type: Flood Control

Activity/Project Start Date: **04/2002**Activity/Project End Date: **02/2009**

Funding Source: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Funding Recipient: Local Government

Funding Recipient Name: Town of Hiram

Application/Project Number: DR-1371-ME

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: \$538,000.00 (Actual)

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal

Disaster? Yes

Federal Disaster #: 1371, 05/16/2001

Federal Disaster Year: 2001

Value Tested By Disaster? No

Repetitive Loss Property? No

Reference URLs

No URLs were submitted

Main Points

No Main Points were entered.



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